

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 22-24. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - iii).

- C1
2. (Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein said one or more promoters is inserted within the U5 region of the 5' LTR.
 3. (Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein said one or more coding sequences is inserted within the U3 region of the 3' LTR.
 4. (Twice Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein said one or more coding sequences comprises DNA which is heterologous to the vector.
 5. (Twice Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 4, wherein said one or more coding sequences is selected from one or more elements of the group consisting of marker genes, therapeutic genes, antiviral genes, antitumour genes, cytokine genes, toxin genes and combinations thereof.
 6. (Twice Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 1, wherein said one or more promoters is a constitutive promoter.
-
- C2
10. (Twice Amended) A recombinant retroviral vector system comprising:
 - a) a retroviral vector comprising one or more promoters inserted in antisense orientation within the 5' long terminal repeat (LTR) region and one or more coding sequences inserted in antisense orientation within the 3' LTR region, both the promoter as well as the coding sequence inserted in such a way as to ensure that the promoter and the coding sequence become duplicated during the process of reverse transcription in a target cell and appear in the 3' as well as in the 5' LTR

region of the resulting provirus in a fashion where the promoter is located upstream of the coding sequence and drives expression of the coding sequence, and

- b) a packaging cell line harbouring at least one retroviral construct coding for proteins required for said retroviral vector to be packaged.

- C2
CONT.
11. (Twice Amended) A retroviral particle produced by transfecting a packaging cell line of a retroviral vector system with a retroviral vector comprising one or more promoters inserted in antisense orientation within the 5' long terminal repeat (LTR) region and one or more coding sequences inserted in antisense orientation within the 3' LTR region, both the promoter as well as the coding sequence inserted in such a way as to ensure that the promoter and the coding sequence become duplicated during the process of reverse transcription in a target cell and appear in the 3' as well as in the 5' LTR region of the resulting provirus in a fashion where the promoter is located upstream of the coding sequence and drives expression of the coding sequence, and isolating the resulting retroviral particle.
-

- C3
13. (Amended) An mRNA of a retroviral provirus according to claim 12.

14. (Amended) An RNA of a retroviral vector according to claim 1.
-

- C4
22. (Amended) A retroviral vector comprising one or more promoters inserted in antisense orientation within the U5 region of the 5' long terminal repeat (LTR) region and one or more coding sequences inserted in antisense orientation within the U3 region of the 3' LTR region, both the promoter as well as the coding sequence inserted in such a way as to ensure that the promoter and the coding sequence become duplicated during the process of reverse transcription in a target cell and appear in the 3' as well as in the 5' LTR region of the resulting provirus in a fashion wherein the promoter is located upstream of the coding sequence and drives expression of the coding sequence.

23. (Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 22, wherein said one or more sequences comprises DNA which is heterologous to the vector.
24. (Amended) The retroviral vector according to claim 23, wherein said one or more sequences is selected from one or more elements of the group consisting of marker genes, therapeutic genes, antiviral genes, antitumour genes, cytokine genes, toxin genes and combinations thereof.

REMARKS

Applicants' Attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview in which allowable subject matter was discussed.

Claim Amendments

Claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 22-24 have been amended.

Claims 2-6 and 23-24 have been amended to recite proper antecedent basis.

Claim 10 has been amended to clarify the preamble and body of the claim.

Claim 11 has been amended to further clarify the claimed invention. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 19-25.

Claim 22 has been amended to further clarify the claimed invention. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example at page 7, lines 16-17, and page 7, lines 20-21.

No new matter has been added.

Objections to Claims 13 and 14

Claims 13 and 14 are objected to because the claims do not begin with an article such as "An" (Office Action, page 2).

Applicants have amended the claims to begin with "An", as appropriate. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.